

Victim assistance

We realize that being a victim of a crime can be a very difficult time for most people. Victim assistance is an effort to help crime victims return to their normal way of life. We provide the opportunity for crime victims to speak about their worries and problems during the court case.

The Victim Services Unit may provide you with assistance in the following areas:

- Explain your legal rights as stated in the crime victim rights act
- Accompany victims to court when asked by the victim
- Help with the filing of a crime victim compensation claim
- Make Referrals to other community agencies for additional services
- Help with the return of your property, if taken as evidence
- Help victims make a statement to the court at the time of sentencing

IMPORTANT: it is your responsibility to keep us informed of your current address and phone number.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of us in the victim's unit:

Victim Compensation

If you are a victim of a crime The Michigan Crime Victim Compensation board may help to pay for medical expenses, lost wages, funeral expenses and counseling expenses.

The requirements of the Michigan Crime Victim Compensation Board for the filing of a claim are:

- The crime must have happened in the State of Michigan.
- The crime must have been reported to the police within 48 hours (unless good cause can be shown as to why it wasn't).
- The applicant (usually the victim or their parent) must cooperate with the investigation.
- The victim must have a \$200 out-of-pocket medical expense and/or loss of two continuous weeks of earnings or support.
- The claim must be filed within one year from the date of the injury, unless good cause can be shown.
- In the case of death, a claim may be filed by a family member.
- Expenses or losses that are covered by personal insurance or other sources (Medicaid/Medicare) will not be covered. Your insurance deductible may be able to be claimed if it is more than \$200.
- PROPERTY LOSS or DAMAGE IS NOT COVERED.

What Are Your Rights?

Crime Victims have the right to:

- Be treated with *fairness* and *dignity* throughout the criminal justice process.

The following are your rights during prosecution

upon your request only

- To receive notice of any scheduled court proceeding and any changes in that schedule
- To speak with the prosecuting attorney prior to the case being resolved
- To be present in the courtroom at trial after you first testify
- To make an oral or written "Impact Statement" to the Court at sentencing
- To make an oral or written statement to the probation officer preparing the pre-sentence investigation report to be included in the pre-sentence report
- To know that the Court shall order restitution at sentencing.
- To be informed about the conviction, sentence, imprisonment, and release from jail or prison of the defendant.

- To be notified of the status of an appeal filed in your case.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Calhoun County Prosecutor's Office

Main Number

(269) 969-6976

Victim's Unit

(269) 969-6944

Witness Unit

(269) 969-6947

Juvenile Court Division

(269) 969-6953

Appellate Division

(269) 969-6951

S.A.F.E. Place

(269) 965-7233

Free Shelter and Counseling for Domestic
Violence Victims

Sexual Assault Services

(269) 660-3925

Free Counseling for Sexual Assault victims
& Their families

Crime Victim Compensation Bd.

(517) 373-7373

P.O. Box 30026

Lansing, MI 48909

Websites of Interest

Michigan Crime Victims

www.mivictims.org/index.html

Michigan Victim Alliance

www.mivictims.org/mva/index/htm

National Center for Crime Victims

www.ncvc.org

PACC Victim Resource Links

www.michiganprosecutor.org/viclink.htm

S.A.F.E. Place

www.safeplaceshelter.org

Mother's Against Drunk Driving

www.madd.org

Michigan Department of Corrections

www.state.mi.us/mdoc

Michigan State Police

www.msp.state.mi.us

Calhoun County

www.calhoun-mi.com

identity theft

www.privacyrights.org

www.idtheftcenter.org

www.consumer.gov/idtheft

mail fraud

www.usps.com/postalinspectors

THE CRIME VICTIM SERVICES UNIT OF THE CALHOUN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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